

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for controlling operation of an assisted ventilation device supplying ~~pressurised~~pressurized gas to a patient, the method comprising the steps of:
determining ~~a relatively longterm~~an average of pressure of gas supplied to said patient;
and
controlling the pressure supplied by said ventilation device with regard to said ~~longterm~~
~~average~~: average,
wherein, said controlling step includes a condition that the average exceeds a threshold for more than a minimum period of time before a potential or actual overpressure is determined as occurring.
2. (CANCELLED) ~~A method for detecting the occurrence of a potential or actual overpressure during assisted ventilation, comprising the steps of:~~
~~determining a relatively longterm average of ventilation pressure; and determining whether the average approaches or exceeds a threshold value as being indicative of a potential or actual overpressure occurring.~~
3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method as claimed in ~~claim 2~~ claim 1, comprising the further step of issuing an alarm upon the determination of a potential or actual overpressure occurring.
4. (CANCELLED) ~~A method for controlling operation of an assisted ventilation device supplying pressurised gas to a patient, the method comprising the steps of:~~
~~measuring the currently delivered pressure;~~
~~determining a relatively longterm average of the measured pressure;~~
~~comparing said average against a threshold value; and~~
~~if the threshold value is approached or exceeded, controlling the pressure supplied by the device.~~
5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method as claimed in ~~claim 4~~ claim 3, wherein said controlling step includes limiting or reducing supplied gas pressure to the patient.
6. (ORIGINAL) A method as claimed in claim 5, wherein, for the case of reducing supplied gas pressure, the reducing step is a non-linear function of time and/or pressure.

7. (ORIGINAL) A method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the degree of reduction is greater as said threshold value is approached.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method ~~as claimed in one of claims 4-7~~, for controlling operation of an assisted ventilation device supplying pressurized gas to a patient, the method comprising the steps of:

measuring the currently delivered pressure;

determining an average of the measured pressure;

comparing said average against a threshold value; and

if the threshold value is approached or exceeded, controlling the pressure supplied by the device.

wherein, for the case of ~~longterm~~ said average exceeding said threshold, said ~~determining~~ controlling step includes a condition that said excess must occur for a minimum period of time before it is determined that a potential or actual overpressure is occurring.

9. (CANCELLED) ~~A method for controlling operation of an assisted ventilation device supplying pressurised gas to a patient, the method comprising the steps of:~~

~~determining a relatively longterm average of supplied pressure; and~~

~~controlling said supplied pressure as a function of a waveform template, a target patient ventilation and said longterm average.~~

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method ~~as claimed in claim 9~~, for controlling operation of an assisted ventilation device supplying pressurized gas to a patient, the method comprising the steps of:

determining an average of supplied pressure; and

controlling said supplied pressure as a function of a waveform template, a target patient ventilation and said average, wherein said function is given by:

$$P = P_0 + k.A.f(v,t)$$

where:

P is said supplied pressure,

P₀ is a constant pressure,

K is a function of said ~~longterm~~ average,

A is a function of said target patient ventilation, and f(v,t) represents said waveform template.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method as claimed in claim 910 wherein, in said controlling step, when said ~~longterm~~ average approaches a threshold value, strong control of said supplied pressure is provided.

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method as claimed in one of ~~claims 4-7~~ claims 8, 5, 6, and 7, wherein said ~~longterm~~ average is of the order of minutes.

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method as claimed in one of ~~claims 4-7~~ claims 8, 5, 6, and 7, wherein said ~~longterm~~ average is taken over ten or more breaths.

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) Assisted ventilation apparatus for detecting a potential or actual overpressure condition, comprising:

a blower to supply ~~pressurised~~pressurized gas to a conduit, and in turn to a patient mask for connection with the entrance to a patient's airways:

a pressure sensor to detect the delivered pressure of gas in the conduit or at the mask, and provide a signal thereof; and

a controller receiving said pressure signal and having control over operation of the blower and ~~operable~~configured to determine a ~~relatively longterm~~ an average of the pressure signal and to control the supplied pressure with regard to said ~~longterm~~ average;

wherein, said control of the supplied pressure includes a condition that the average exceeds a threshold for more than a minimum period of time before a potential or actual overpressure is determined as occurring.

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) Assisted ventilation apparatus as claimed in claim 14, wherein said controller controls the supplied pressure as a function of a waveform template, a target patient ventilation and said ~~longterm~~ average.

16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) Assisted ventilation apparatus for detecting a potential or actual overpressure condition, comprising:

a blower to supply ~~pressurised~~pressurized gas to a conduit, and in turn to a patient mask for connection with the entrance to a patient's airways;

a pressure sensor to detect the delivered pressure of gas in the conduit or at the mask, and provide a signal thereof; and

a controller, receiving the pressure signal and having control over operation of the blower, and ~~operable~~configured to determine a ~~relatively longterm~~ an average of the pressure signal,

compare the average against a threshold value, and if the threshold value is approached or exceeded, to control the blower and thus the supplied ~~pressure~~: pressure.

wherein, the controller is further configured for determining a time that the average exceeds the threshold and conditioning the control of the blower on the time exceeding a minimum period.

17. (ORIGINAL) Apparatus as claimed in claim 16, wherein said controller controls the supplied pressure by limitation or reduction.

18. (ORIGINAL) Apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein, for the case of reducing supplied pressure, the controller reduces the pressure as a non-linear function of time and/or pressure.

19. (ORIGINAL) Apparatus as claimed in claim 18, wherein the degree of reduction by the controller is greater as said threshold value is approached.

20. (CANCELLED) ~~(PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) Apparatus as claimed in one of claims 16 - 19; wherein, for the case of said longterm average exceeding said threshold, the controller operates subject to the condition that the time in excess must be greater than a minimum period of time before it is determined that a potential or actual overpressure is occurring.~~

21. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) Apparatus as claimed in one of claims 16 - 19, further comprising alarm signaling means, coupled to said controller, for indicating that an alarm state exists if the threshold value is approached or exceeded.

22. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) Apparatus as claimed in one of claims 16 - 19, wherein said controller determines the ~~longterm~~ average in the order of minutes.

23. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) Apparatus as claimed in one of claims 16 - 19, wherein said controller determines ~~longterm~~ the average over ten or more breaths.